

**State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education**

System Office  
Board Room

**Meeting Minutes**

10:00 A.M.

September 24, 2024

**PRESENT:**

Roger P. Schrum, Chair  
Terry Hardesty  
Ben Satcher  
Anthony G. Barker  
Ralph “Nick” Odom  
Rachel Gainey  
Kathy Richardson  
Orville “Chip” Smith III  
Carolyn Swinton  
Chris Huffman

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Tim Hardee, System President  
AJ Newton, Vice President of Governmental Affairs  
Warren Ganjehsani, Chief Legal Counsel  
Randall Johnson, Vice President for Finance  
Brad Neese, Vice President of Economic Development  
Kandy Peacock, Vice President for Human Resources  
Kelly Steinhilper, Vice President of Communications  
Amanda Richardson, Vice President of Apprenticeship Carolina

**ABSENT:**

E. Grantland Burns  
Warren Darby  
Ellen Weaver

**SYSTEM STAFF ABSENT:**

Rosline Sumpter  
Khushru Tata

**GUESTS:**

Ashley Jaillette, Executive Director, SC Association of Technical College Commissioners  
Dr. Aimee Carter, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs

**NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA**

The State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education complied with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act in notifying the media and posting the agenda for the State Board meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER – Roger Schrum Chair**

Chair Schrum called the meeting to order and welcome the guests. Mr. Schrum then recognized Ms. Tami Hinson for her service to the System, highlighted her accomplishments, and thanked her for her dedication.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORTS:**

### **A. Economic Development and Training Committee – Chris Huffman, Vice-Chair**

Project Budgets for State Board Approval: Mr. Huffman entertained a motion to enter an Executive Session to discuss readySC™ projects over \$200,000 for approval. Mr. Odom moved, and Mr. Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. They entered the Executive Session, and Mr. Brad Neese, AJ Newton, and Randy Johnson were asked to stay for the Executive Session.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*Section 30-4-70(a)(5) of the S.C. Code of Laws provides that "A public body may hold a meeting closed to the public for one or more of the following reasons: Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim."*

*S.C. Code of Laws Section 30-4-70(a)(5) – "Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body..."*

### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

The Committee returned to open session. Mr. Huffman reported that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

Mr. Huffman made a motion to approve the three Project Budgets for State Board Approval. Mr. Satcher seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Project Budgets for Ratification- Mr. Huffman reviewed the three readySC™ project budgets for ratification under \$200,000. There were no questions. Mr. Huffman moved to approve the three Project Budgets for Ratification. Mr. Hardesty seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

E-Zone Retraining Program for Ratification- Mr. Huffman presented six E-Zone retraining programs for ratification. Mr. Huffman entertained a motion to approve the six E-Zone Retraining Programs for Ratification. Mr. Swinton seconded the motion passed unanimously.

**B. Fiscal, Audit, and Personnel Committee – Garvin Barker, Chair**

Chair Schrum gave the floor to Mr. Barker. He reported that the Committee has five items for review.

Piedmont Technical College Capital Project for Approval – Family Life and Conference Center- Piedmont Technical College proposes to renovate/construct a space on the Greenwood County Campus to provide stakeholders throughout the region a location to effectively plan and host events without the need to take their dollars out of the region to a larger metropolitan area or to compromise on the format of their meetings to accommodate space limitations. This facility will meet community needs and will directly provide space for student activities and college events including, but not limited to, graduation, pinning ceremonies, student award recognitions, scholarship events, convocation, and college-wide training. The existing Medford Family Event Center was constructed in 1980. The building is 21,000 square feet and primarily comprised of a single large 14,000 square foot meeting space with support spaces that included a stage, restrooms, and small storage spaces. The new 18,000 square feet of flexible meeting space. The Meeting spaces can be configured into sizes from 1,500 square feet up to 18,000 square feet. These flexible meeting configurations will PTC to accommodate large and small meetings and gatherings to include seating for up to 1,200. This project was previously included in the CPIP approved by the State Board on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 however, at the time of approval, the total budget was \$20M based on internal estimate prepared by the College. Since that approval, the College has received an external cost assessment of \$23.7M and is requesting approval for a budget increase. The Fiscal, Audit, and Personnel Committee recommends approval of the project subject to other necessary approvals.

Spartanburg Community College Capital Project for Approval – Cherokee Campus Property Acquisitions- Spartanburg Community College's Cherokee County Campus, located in Gaffney, SC, within the boundaries of SC Hwy 11 and Peachoid Road, currently consists of five buildings (the Freightliner Service Center, the L Hoke Parris Industry & Business Training Center, the Peeler Academic Building, the Center for Advanced Manufacturing & Industrial Technologies, and the Cherokee Public Schools' Institute of Innovation). The college anticipates rapid expansion in the area and desires to acquire property now to provide for future expansion opportunities. Recently, the College has been in discussions with area property owners about potential acquisitions of property adjacent to the campus and in August 2024, the SCC Commission gave approval for the College to proceed with exploring the possible acquisition of the properties described below, pending

proper approvals by the State.

- **Blanton Land Acquisition** - In August 2024, the owner of the property located at 202 Whelchel Road approached the college about a potential sale. The property consists of 0.87 acres of land and lies between the College's existing Cherokee campus and another property recently acquired by the College.

- **Mahaffey Land Acquisition** – In August 2024, the owners of the property, two parcels located at 306 Whelchel Road, approached the college about a potential sale. The property consists of 0.93 acres of land and a house that would be razed by the College if the property were to be acquired. The land lies between the College's existing Cherokee campus and another property recently acquired by the College. The College is concerned that these properties, if acquired and developed by others, may be unavailable or less affordable in the future. Therefore, the college seeks State Board approval to request Phase I land acquisition authority from the State which would allow the College to proceed with obtaining an environmental Phase 1 study and an appraisal at a total cost not to exceed \$20,000 per property. In the event the College completes Phase I and decides to move forward with property acquisitions, State Board approval would be sought prior to proceeding with the purchase. The Fiscal, Audit, and Personnel Committee recommends approval of the project subject to other necessary approvals.

Tri-County Technical College Capital Project for Approval – Workforce Training Center Acquisition- Tri-County Technical College desires to acquire an 8,500 square foot building on 2.75 acres that is currently owned by the TCTC Foundation. This property and building are adjacent to the College's Industrial Training Center. This building will be used for workforce training in coordination with the College's business partners and local manufacturing companies from Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties. The facility has open training spaces and classrooms and is ADA compliant. TCTC has leased this property from the foundation since 2019, but when the lease expired in 2024, TCTC began discussions with the foundation about a potential purchase. The property was not available for purchase at the time the CPIP was filed, so the project was not included on the recently approved CPIP. TCTC seeks State Board approval to request Phase I property acquisition authority from the State which would allow the College to proceed with obtaining an environmental Phase I study and an appraisal at a total cost not to exceed \$30K. In the event the College completes Phase I and decides to move forward with property acquisitions, State Board approval will be sought prior to proceeding with the purchase. The Fiscal, Audit and Personnel Committee recommends approval of the project subject to other necessary approvals.

Mr. Barker made a motion to approve the three projects:

- Piedmont Technical College Capital Project for Approval Family Life and Conference Center

- Spartanburg Community College Capital Project for Approval -Cherokee Campus Property Acquisitions
- Tri-County Technical College Capital Project for Approval- Workforce Training Center Acquisitions.

Mr. Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Staff Approvals for July 11, 2024 – September 11, 2024 - Information Item- Mr. Barker noted that the staff approval list included in the agenda package contained two staff approvals. He stated that Mr. Johnson was available to answer any questions, but there were none.

State Board Financial Summary—Month Ending August 31, 2024—Information Item-Mr. Barker noted the summary in the agenda package and stated that it reflected activity through August 31, 2024.

**C. Instruction and Student Services Committee- Nick Odom, Chair**

Policy for Approval – SBTCE Policy 3-1-301: Instructional Program Evaluation

Mr. Odom presented the Division of Academics, Student Affairs, and Research request for approval of revisions to the Instructional Program Evaluation policy. Revisions incorporate current language and practices for the program evaluation process. The Presidents' Council reviewed the policy and approved the associated procedure (SBTCE Procedure 3-1-301.1: Instructional Program Evaluation Timetable and Procedures) on September 12, 2024. A copy of the procedure was provided for information only. Policy 3-1-301: Instructional Program Evaluation key points of revision were as follows:

- Revises policy name
- Updates name of the division of responsibility
- Deletes the term “associate” so the reference to degrees includes bachelor’s and associate degrees.

Mr. Odom made a motion to approve SBTCE Policy 3-1-301. Mr. Hardesty seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Greenville Technical College, Associate in Applied Science, major in Operations Management

Mr. Odom reported that there was one academic program proposal for consideration by the Committee. He provided a summary of the program proposal that was included in the agenda materials distributed prior to the meeting. The following academic program was recommended for State Board approval:

Greenville Technical College, Associate in Applied Science major in Operations Management

Mr. Odom called for a motion to approve the Greenville Technical College, Associate in Applied Science major in Operations Management. Ms. Richardson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **ADJOURN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Chair Schrum adjourned the Committee of the Whole and called the State Board to order.

### **CALL TO ORDER- STATE BOARD MEETING**

Chair Schrum called the State Board Meeting to Order.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE- AJ Newton, Vice President of Governmental Relations**

Mr. Newton provided the Board with a legislative update. He informed the Board the Board of Economic Advisor (BEA) met last month and reported that Fiscal Year 23-24 revenues were \$355M ahead of the forecast, growing at 4.7% compared to the 2% as estimated. Mr. Newton also announced that the Fiscal year 24-25 budget request will be submitted to the Executive Budget Office by the end of the week. He also noted that Proviso 117.187 passed, and this requires a justification form to be filed when there is a request to increase base funding. The system also must provide a detailed analysis of cost saving measures taken in the last five years, a list of programs reduced or eliminated in the last five years and provide each college's unobligated fund balance. Mr. Newton also provided the Board with dates of upcoming meetings:

October 8- JBRC

October 14- BEA Quarterly Review and Regional Advisory Meeting

October 15- State Fiscal Accountability Authority

Mid-October- Executive Budget Office Hearing

November 19- Preliminary Budget Forecast for Fiscal Year 2025-26

### **SC ASSOCIATION OF TECHNICAL COLLEGE COMMISSIONERS' REPORT – Ashley Jaillette, Executive Director**

Ms. Ashley Jaillette provided a brief update. The SCATCC board met on September 4, 2024. The board has resumed presentations from individual colleges, starting with Denmark Tech and York Technical College. Future presentations are scheduled for Williamsburg and Central Carolina. The board also reviewed the audit process, noting that their auditing firm had ended their relationship due to cost issues. They are considering moving to an "agreed-upon procedures" review instead of an annual audit.

Ms. Jaillette also announced that a meet and greet is scheduled for October 24 in Seattle, with over forty participants from South Carolina already confirmed. Plans are underway for a "day of learning" in late January. The next SCATCC board meeting is scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup> and will be held at the System Office.

### **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

Chairperson Schrum entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the State Board meeting on July 23, 2024. Mr. Hardesty motioned and was seconded by Mr. Satcher. The minutes were approved as amended with no further discussion.

## **MINUTES FOR REVIEW**

Chairperson Schrum stated that minutes from the July 18, 2024 and August 8, 2024, Presidents' Council meeting were included with the agenda materials distributed before the meeting for review. Mr. Schrum encouraged the Board members to read them.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDATIONS-CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairperson Schrum entertained a motion for State Board approval of the Committee of the Whole recommendations. Mr. Satcher moved, Mr. Hardesty seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the following recommendations were adopted unanimously without discussion:

- Project Budgets for State Board Approval
- Project Budgets for State Board Ratification
- Board Ratifications for E-Zone Retraining Program
- Piedmont Technical College Capital Project for Approval- Family Life and Conference Center
- Spartanburg Community College Capital Project for Approval- Cherokee Campus Property Acquisitions
- Tri-County Technical College Capital Project for Approval- Workforce Training Center Acquisition
- Policy for Approval -SBTCE Policy 3-1-301: Instructional Program Evaluation
- Greenville Technical College, Associate in Applied Science, major in Operations Management
- State Board Meeting Minutes, July 23, 2024

Mr. Schrum reminded the group that at the July 23, 2024 meeting the Board discussed and approved the Agency Head Evaluation. The evaluation and documentation have been sent over to the Agency Head Salary Commission. Mr. Smith stated the board wanted to ensure that Dr. Hardee is compensated appropriately for his leadership in a manner consistent with the State Board's wishes and to recognize his exemplary performance, which resulted in the State Technical college system exceeding its performance goals in fiscal year 23-24. Mr. Smith made a motion that the Board issue a resolution to the South Carolina Technical College System Foundation requesting that a one-time payment of \$30,000 be provided to Dr. Hardee from foundation funds. Mr. Odom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Schrum noted that Mr. Burns and Mr. Darby gave him his proxy for their approval of the motion.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Tim Hardee, Executive Director**

Dr. Hardee provided the Board with a list of events and meetings he has attended since the last Board meeting in May. He also provided the Board with an update on the following areas:

*Enrollment Status:* The System has a 3.3% increase in enrollment for the fall semester, though this varies among colleges within the system. This percentage translates to approximately 2,600 more students than last fall semester.

*South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Math:* Dr. Hardee informed the Board that at the September Presidents' Council meeting representatives from the SCGSSM presented to the Council to update the group on the success of the Summer Camps that were hosted by ten of the sixteen Technical Colleges. SCGSSM is looking forward to being able to have all sixteen colleges participate in the future.

*South Carolina Hospital Association-* On October 17<sup>th</sup>, the Sixteen College Presidents and Dr. Hardee are scheduled to participate in South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA) retreat in Florence. The System currently has approximately one third of the 140K students at the Technical College System in the healthcare field. This meeting will allow time for CEOs of hospitals around South Carolina and College Presidents to participate in discussions and plan partnership opportunities moving forward.

Dr. Hardee also informed the board that he and Mr. Newton met with the House Education Committee. This Committee is currently looking into Dual Enrollment. The system is working with the committee to provide insight and information on ways to help growth the Dual-Enrollment efforts throughout the state.

Dr. Hardee also provided an update regarding the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce conducted a return on investment study of the state's associate degree nursing programs, covering graduates from 2004 to the most recent class. During that period, 21,000 Registered Nurses (RNs) graduated from the state's technical college system. The study found that 87% of graduates were employed in South Carolina one year after graduation, and 72% remained employed in the state 10 years later.

The median salary for nurses one-year post-graduation was \$61,000, rising to \$77,000 after 10 years. Notably, the study also highlighted that nursing graduates recoup the cost of their associate degree within just five months of graduating, underscoring the financial value of the degree. The findings confirmed that South Carolina Technical College nursing graduates are both staying in the state and earning competitive salaries.

*AESC-* Dr. Hardee provided an update on the work that Mr. Brad Neese and his team are working with AESC, a battery manufacturer in Florence, on a significant long-term project. Recently, Secretary of Commerce Harry Lightsey reached out to discuss the workforce needs for AESC, which requires 2,700 workers across Lake City, Marion, and Florence. The call included Fred Carter, president of Francis Marion University, and Darla Moore from the Lake City area. They were interested in understanding how the region would meet AESC's workforce demand. It was shared that the team has already conducted discovery visits to AESC's facilities in Tennessee and England to learn about their processes and company culture. Additionally, they introduced Cam Shepherd as the point person for the AESC project and emphasized the region's 50 years of experience training employees for major companies like Michelin, BMW, Boeing, and Volvo.

Hiring for the AESC project is expected to ramp up in the fourth quarter of 2025, with some positions being filled sooner. Both Carter and Moore, key local community leaders, were encouraged to advocate for the project in their communities. To keep them informed, the plan is to send regular



updates on AESC’s progress at the start of each month. This project, along with Scout Motors, is generating significant interest, and local leaders are eager to understand how it will unfold, given the scale and impact it will have on South Carolina's workforce.

Mr. Schrum noted that the next State Board meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2024 at the System Office.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Schrum called for a motion to adjourn the meeting with no other matters to discuss. Mr. Satcher moved, and Mr. Barker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned the meeting.

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Date Approved by the State Board

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Roger Schrum, Chairperson

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Tim Hardee, Executive Director